



# BYWORDS

Department of English Newsletter

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## FOR YOUR CALENDAR

On 3/24/09, **Digital Dialogues** welcomes Despina Kakoudaki (American University) for a lecture titled "Are Robots Real? The Robot as an Object of Study." Digital Dialogues runs every Tuesday at 12:30PM in the MITH Conference Room, McKeldin B0135.

Maryland MFA Students will read from their work for the **Mock Turtle Reading Series** at Wonderland Ballroom in Columbia Heights, DC on 3/27/09 at 6:30PM. See the department calendar for directions.

**The Eighteenth-Century Reading Group** meets on 4/2/09 at 3:30PM in Susquehanna 1111. Discussion will center on "Race & Gender in Eighteenth-Century Drama." The session will be moderated by Jennifer Donahue, who is completing her MA writing project on this topic.

Comparative Literature's **Translation Theory Colloquium** will meet on 4/3/09 at 3:00PM. Readings and location TBA.

The LGBT Studies series on **69/09: The Queer Afterlives of Stonewall** continues with Susan Stryker (Indiana University), presenting on "We Who Are Sexy: The Post-Colonial Transsexual Whiteness of Christine Jorgensen in the Philippines," on 4/3/09 at 4:00PM. See [website](#) for more details.

**Perspectives on Rhetoric** welcomes Janet Atwill (University of Tennessee) for a lecture titled "Rhetoric and the Display of Art in the Second Sophistic," on 4/6/09 at 3:30PM, location TBA.

Poet A. Van Jordan and fiction writer Charles D'Ambrosio will read from their work at **Writers Here & Now** on 4/8/09 at 7:00PM in the McKeldin Special Events Room. Join us at 6:15PM for a reception before the reading at the Jimenez-Porter Writers House, Dorchester Hall.

*A Light exists in Spring  
Not present on the Year  
At any other period--  
When March is scarcely here*

*A color stands abroad  
On solitary hills  
That Science cannot overtake  
But human nature feels.*

--Emily Dickinson



## UPCOMING DEADLINES and DEPARTMENT MEETINGS

**Reminder:** All Faculty, Lecturers, and TAs teaching 200 level courses must submit a copy of your **Spring 2009 syllabi**.

We use these copies to answer inquiries from current students who need to finalize their class schedules, and former students needing transfer credits. Your syllabi on file has been a big help to new TAs when they're in the process of developing their own syllabi. Please help us by submitting your syllabus to Isabella Moulton at [imoulton@umd.edu](mailto:imoulton@umd.edu), and to [english@umd.edu](mailto:english@umd.edu) for our computer database.

### Save the date!

APT meeting, Full Professors Only:  
April 6, 2009, 10:00-11:00AM

APT meeting, All Tenure-track Faculty:  
April 22, 2009, 9:30-11:00AM

## Interpolations Now Available on Department Website

The inaugural edition of *Interpolations: A Journal of First Year Writing* is now available on the English Department website.

*Interpolations* is a refereed online journal edited by graduate teaching assistants teaching in the First Year Writing Program.

The journal required a year of planning before publishing its first edition in February. "Looking at the journal in its final form, I could not be more pleased with the document that you see before you," says editor **Adam Lloyd** in the preface.

New issues will be published every semester, featuring a variety of exemplary writing. The editorial board consists of **Jennifer Ashlock, Elizabeth Fixsen, Maggie Fromm, Nabila Hijazi, Kisa Lape, Kimberly O'Connor,** and **Natalie Philips.**

Read more about *Interpolations* [here](#).

## KIRSCHENBAUM WINS AWARD

**Matthew Kirschenbaum** was awarded the Richard J. Finneran prize for his book *Mechanisms: New Media and the Forensic Imagination* (MIT Press, 2008) by the Society for Textual Scholarship at its biennial



conference in New York last week. The award is in recognition of the best edition or book about editorial theory and/or practice published in the English language during the preceding two calendar years (2007-2008).

*More articles on recent department activities are available on our [web site](#)! If you have an idea for an article, please e-mail [englweb@umd.edu](mailto:englweb@umd.edu)*

## New Book Co-edited by Ralph Bauer Published

University of North Carolina Press has published *Creole Subjects in the Colonial Americas: Empires, Texts, Identities*, edited by **Ralph Bauer**, Associate Professor of English at University of Maryland, and **José Antonio Mazzotti**, Professor of Romance Languages & Literatures at Tufts University.



The book, published for the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture in Williamsburg, Virginia, “explores literatures written in Spanish, Portuguese, and English to identify creole responses to such concepts as communal identity, local patriotism, nationalism, and literary expression.”

The volume includes eighteen essays from a distinguished and diverse array of scholars. Contributors include Raquel Chang-Rodríguez (City University of New York), Lúcia Helena Costigan (Ohio State), Jim Egan (Brown University), Sandra M. Gustafson (University of Notre Dame), Carlos Jáuregui (Vanderbilt University), Yolanda Martínez-San Miguel

(University of Pennsylvania), Stephanie Merrim (Brown University), Susan Scott Parrish (University of Michigan), Luis Fernando Restrepo (University of Arkansas, Fayetteville), Jeffrey H. Richards (Old Dominion University), Kathleen Ross (New York University), David S. Shields (University of South Carolina), Teresa A. Toulouse (Tulane University), Lisa Voigt (University of Chicago), and Jerry M. Williams (West Chester University).

Ivy Schweitzer calls *Creole Subjects in the Colonial Americas* “rigorously researched and strongly interdisciplinary” and Karen Ordahl Kupperman says “these essays capture the emerging ambivalent claims of elite creole identities in the early modern Americas.”

Read more about *Creole Subjects in the Colonial Americas* [here](#).

## PhD Alumnus Jonathan Buehl Wins National Award for Dissertation

At the 2009 Conference on College Composition and Communication in San Francisco, March 11-14, **Jonathan Buehl** (PhD, 2008) was honored with a national award. CCCC, the major national organization in composition studies, named Buehl the winner of the “Outstanding Dissertation Award in Technical Communication.” His dissertation is titled



*Instrument to Evidence to Argument: Visual Mediation of Invisible Phenomena in Scientific Discourse*. Buehl's dissertation committee was composed of Jeanne Fahnestock (Chair), Jane Donawerth, Shirley Logan, Michael Marcuse, and James Klumpp (Dept. of Communication).

Buehl is now Assistant Professor of English at The Ohio State University, where he teaches rhetoric and composition.

# NEWS

## FACULTY NEWS

**John Auchard** has been honored with a University of Maryland GRB Semester Award (for spring 2010). His project is "The 'Late' Graham Greene." John's award is the fifth semester GRB won by a member of the department for 2009-2010.

**Ralph Bauer** has recently published and has forthcoming articles in *Dieciocho*, *PMLA*, *American Literary History*, and *Latin American Research Review*.

**Bill Cohen** will be reprising his illustrated lecture "Hopkins among the Materialists" at the George Washington University Nineteenth-Century Studies Colloquium on Friday, April 3, 11:30-1:30, in Rome Hall (22nd & I Sts.), Room 771.

**Kelly Cresap's** first play, *The Laughing Muse*, won the 2009 Individual Artist Award in Playwriting from the Maryland State Arts Council. The play is being considered for workshop or production at Chicago's Steppenwolf Theater. Some of you may have heard Kelly read the first scene at Lea's potluck salon last summer.

**Marshall Grossman** has received a Senior National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship for 2009-2010 at the Folger Shakespeare Library. Marshall will be working on his working on his book project *Reason's Martyrs: Poetry and Belief in Paradise Regained, to which is added, Samson Agonistes*.

Three items from **Monica Jacobs**: 1) One of her former students fell in love with professional writing after taking her 391 course and is now working toward a masters in professional writing at Towson. 2) Another former student used her final Spring 2008 394 proposal to change the psychology department's requirements for hard sciences. This process included a meeting and presentation for which the student said she felt totally prepared after taking Monica's class. 3) At CCCC this month Monica will be one of the lead presenters in an all-day workshop on contingent faculty in writing instruction at colleges and universities. She will be talking about available and needed research as well as staffing trends on a national level. *Inside Higher Ed* will be covering the event.

**Sheila Jelen** is the recipient of a fall 2009 Fellowship at the Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Michigan. Sheila's reidency will be part of her project on "Ethnographic Narratives: Fiction and Photography as Artifacts of Eastern European Jewry."

In March, **Matthew Kirschenbaum** gave a plenary address at the Society for Textual Scholarship. He also recently recorded a segment for an episode of MLA's radio show, *What's the Word*; the episode, on "The User and the Book," will air on public radio on April 29.

**Tyler Mills'** paper, *Entering the Poem – The Title as Doorway*, was accepted by the Poetry Pedagogy Forum for the 2009 Associated Writing Programs (AWP) conference in Chicago. She participated in the Pedagogy Forum on Feb. 12 and hopes to translate some of the material from the discussion into composition workshops.

**Nicole Pekarske** received a Maryland State Arts Grant for poetry. This honor comes on the heels of last year's Helen Wurlitzer Grant to study poetry for three months in Taos, New Mexico.

**Kelli Skinner** married Wade Eyerly last semester.

**Katie Wagner** plans to go to Uganda in June for six months to educate local teachers and children about deaf culture. One of her duties will be bridging gaps between Ugandan Sign Language as American Sign Language, and devising the best way to ensure the deaf receive equal access. Eventually, Katie plans to pursue a PsyD in clinical psychology.

## STUDENT NEWS

**Anna Bedford** has been accepted to the 2009 World Science Fiction Convention, which will be held in Montreal in the fall. Anna is presenting "Refugees and Reluctant Voyagers: An Eco-Feminist Analysis of the Work of Elisabeth Vonarburg" at the conference, at which Vonarburg will be an invitee d'honneur.

**Andy Black** is presenting a paper at the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies annual conference in Richmond, VA. His paper is "The 'Neutering' of a Discourse: Plato's *Phaedrus* and Enlightenment Plain Style." Professors Vin Carretta, Tita Chico, and Laura Rosenthal will also be giving papers at ASECS.

**Lew Gleich** will be delivering a paper at the Inaugural Postcolonial Studies Association Conference in Waterford, Ireland in May. The title of the paper is "Kipling's 'Strange Ride': Ontological Insecurity and Empire." To attend the conference, Lew received a Goldhaber Grant through the UMD Graduate School. Lew will also be giving a paper in June at the North American James Joyce Conference in Buffalo, NY. The paper is entitled "Ripping Apart Ulysses: Identifying Joyce's Eighteen Points of View and Locating Points of Intersection."

**Gerald Maa** has earned a 2008-2009 Translation Grant from the International Center for Writing and Translation, located at the University of California, Irvine. This grant will support his project, *The Long Poems of Haizi*. His translations of Haizi, a prominent Chinese Modernist, are forthcoming in *Common Knowledge* and *Chinese Writers on Writing*.

**Katherine Young's** second chapbook of poetry, *Van Gogh in Moscow*, was published by Pudding House Press in February.

## HISTORY of the ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

*This year will mark the 150th anniversary of the Maryland English Department. Bywords will be celebrating our long legacy and the important role of the department in the university.*

When Perley Isaac Reed joined the department in 1918 (and became chair in 1920), he instilled a greater focus on advanced literary study. In a prescription written to prospective undergraduate candidates should read "with a view to understanding and enjoying" *The Merchant of Venice*, *As You Like It*, *Julius Caesar*, *Gulliver's Travels*, *Ivanhoe*, *The Lays of Ancient Rome*, Longfellow, Poe, *L'Allegro, Il Penseroso*, Tennyson, Johnson, Addison, Carlyle, Emerson and a few dozen other works... before convocation. To complete the English Major, an undergraduate would have to complete thirty-six hours in two foreign languages, or eighteen hours in a foreign language and eighteen hours in history.

P.I. Reed was an influential voice in both literary studies and in journalism. He was the department's first specialist in the study of drama as literature, teaching seminars on medieval drama, Shakespeare, Restoration drama, and 18th- and 19th-Century American Drama. Reed wrote a monograph on early American drama, *The Realistic Presentation of American Characters in Native American Plays* (available in full text [here](#)).

But today Reed is best known for his contributions to the study of journalism. Reed left Maryland in 1939 to lead the School of Journalism that still bears his name at West Virginia University.

### SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

*The next edition of Bywords will be released on Monday, April 20th. Please send us any and all updates on new publications and accomplished accomplishments by*

*Friday, April 17th.*

*Please include dates, locations, and titles of papers/lectures/etc. in your news submissions.*

*Bywords e-mail: [englweb@umd.edu](mailto:englweb@umd.edu)*

*Visit [www.english.umd.edu](http://www.english.umd.edu) for more news updates and upcoming events!*

## Terps in March Madness

The Men's Basketball team was bounced from the NCAA Tournament this weekend. Much scrutiny of Coach Gary Williams has followed. But those of us in the know in Susquehanna Hall know that the Terps main problem isn't its inability to recruit top players and it isn't Greivis Vasquez's overconfidence.

Clearly, what this team needs is more English majors.

Let us recall a happier time, when All-American honoree Len Elmore (yes, an English major) took the Terps to an NIT Championship in 1972, brought them to the Elite Eight in 1973 and led his team in what many consider to be the best basketball game ever played, a 103-100 overtime loss to North Carolina State in the the 1974 ACC final. Elmore and former Women's Basketball star Crystal Langhorne are the only Terrapins with more than 1,000 career rebounds.



After eight seasons in the NBA, Elmore won entry to Harvard Law School, re-employing the critical analysis skills and communications tools learned as an English major. According to Wikipedia, Elmore served as an Assistant District Attorney in Brooklyn, New York, and continues to work as senior counsel with the law firm of LeBoeuf, Lamb, Greene & MacRae, in addition to his occasional announcing duties with CBS.

It must also be noted that Maryland's #1 seed Women's

Basketball team is still in the tournament without any English majors on their roster. The *Bywords* staff has been unable to account for this discrepancy, but we are reasonably sure that Martha Nell Smith has something to do with their continued success.

Image credit: "Len Elmore," University of Maryland Libraries Digital Collections